

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14-17 are currently active.

Applicant resubmits corrected drawings. A copy of the return receipt card that was date stamped by the mailroom of the Patent Office is enclosed which shows that applicant did in fact provide corrected drawings with the last amendment.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 15-17 as being anticipated by Kelmelis. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Kelmelis does not teach or suggest "the holes having edges which are straight, or edges which angle inwards or edges which angle outwards, the edges extending inwardly toward the fixture from a front surface of the layer. Kelmelis does not teach or suggest the layer has a smooth flat outer face across the entire layer, and instead teaches a flange 43 disposed on the outer surface of the ceiling board 31. In regard to Kelmelis, it is clear from the figures and from the text, the finishing ring 41 extends from the ceiling board 31. Kelmelis specifically teaches, as can be seen from figure 6, the finishing ring 41 radially extending flange 43 extends downward from the lower surface of the ceiling board 31. See column 5, lines 37-40. Thus, Kelmelis does not teach or suggest the limitation. Accordingly, Claims 15-17 are not anticipated by Kelmelis.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 as being unpatentable over Hutain in view of Kelmelis.

Referring to Hutain, in pertinent part, Hutain teaches one or more torsion restoring springs 148A, 148B are secured to the perimeter of the wall 146. When the trim ring 126 is slipped into the bottom end 121B of housing 120, end hooks 149 of springs 148A, 148B engage bosses, tabs, or holes in the outer wall 122 and releasably lock in place, thereby holding the trim ring 126 tightly within and against the outer wall of the trim housing 120.

See column 6, lines 44-56.

As shown in figure 2E, the aperture plate 210 has three generally circular apertures 212 through which lenses of the lamps 174C project. The aperture plate 210 is affixed along its perimeter to the inside surface of the lower end of trim housing 122. See column 10, lines 15-20.

Hutain does not teach or suggest "the holes having edges which are straight, or edges which angle inwards or edges which angle outwards, the edges extending inwardly toward the fixture from a front surface of the layer. Hutain does not teach or suggest the layer has a smooth flat front surface across the entire layer, and instead teaches a flange 43 disposed on the outer surface of the ceiling board 31. Hutain teaches the trim ring 126 extends down from the ceiling 4. Accordingly, Hutain also does not teach this limitation.

As mentioned above, Kelmelis also does not teach or suggest "the holes having edges which are straight, or edges which angle inwards or edges which angle outwards, the edges extending inwardly toward the fixture from a front surface of the layer. Kelmelis does not teach or suggest the layer has a smooth flat front surface across the entire layer, and instead teaches a flange 43 disposed on the outer surface of the ceiling board 31. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are patentable over Hutain in view of Kelmelis.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14-17, now in this application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231
on 3/25/05

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